

**Genitourinary | Circumcision.** Circumcision is a surgical procedure performed under local anesthesia in which the foreskin covering the end of the penis is removed. Parents usually ask for this to be done in the first few days of life, prior to discharge from the nursery. The infant should be in good health to be safely circumcised. The procedure is usually covered by insurance.

Currently, the American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend that all boys be circumcised. Potential medical benefits from circumcision include a lower risk of urinary tract infection, a lower risk of penile cancer (rare), a lower risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases, and easier hygiene.

After circumcision, the tip of the penis may appear raw and develop a yellowish drainage. This is to be expected. Antibiotic cream should be applied with each diaper change for comfort and to keep the area from sticking to the diaper. Otherwise, the area should be kept as clean and dry as possible. Sometimes a plastic ring device is used to prevent bleeding after the procedure. This should fall off within a week. Care is otherwise the same.

Problems after circumcision are rare. However, signs to alert your doctor include the following:

- difficulty urinating
- persistent bleeding
- worsening redness around the tip of the penis
- fever

To make an appointment to discuss this topic, please call or email at the information listed below.

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**East Tennessee Pediatric Surgery Group**  
**2100 Clinch Avenue**  
**Children's Medical Office Building, Suite 430**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee 37916**

**(865) 546-2131 - Phone**  
**(865) 637-2535 - Fax**  
**Email: [info@etpsg.com](mailto:info@etpsg.com)**  
**Website: [www.etpsg.com](http://www.etpsg.com)**